

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolae." . . . VIRG.

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AGRICULTURE.

The RUTA BAGA or SWEDISH TURNIP.

FROM COBBETT'S YEAR'S RESIDENCE.

(Continued from No. 4, page 27.)

TIME AND MANNER OF HARVESTING.

This must depend, in some measure, upon the age of the turnips; for, some will have their full growth earlier than others; that is to say, those which are sown first, or transplanted first, will be ripe before those which are sown or transplanted latest. I have made ample experiments as to this matter; and I will, as in former cases, first relate *what I did*, and then give my opinion as to what *ought* to be done.

This was a concern in which I could have no knowledge last fall, never having seen any turnips harvested in America, and knowing, that as to American *frosts*, English experience was only likely to mislead; for, in England, we leave the roots standing in the ground all the winter, where we feed them off with sheep, which scoop them out to the very bottom; or we pull them as we want them, and bring them in to give to fattening oxen, to cows, or to hogs. I had a great opinion of the *hardiness* of the Ruta Baga, and was resolved to try it here, and I did try it upon too large a scale.

I began with a piece. A part of them were taken up on the 13th of December, after we had had some pretty hard frosts. The manner of doing the work was this: We took up the turnips merely by pulling them. The tops had been cut off and given to cattle before. It required a spade, however, just to loosen them along the ridge into which their tap-roots had descended very deeply. We dug holes, at convenient distances, of a square form, and about a foot deep. We put into each hole about fifty bushels of turnips, piling them up above the level of the surface of the land, in a sort of a pyramidal form. When the heap was made, we scattered over it a truss of rye-straw, and threw earth over the whole to a thickness of about a foot, taking care to point the covering at top, in order to keep out wet.

Thus was a small part of the piece put up. The 14th of December was a Sunday, a day that I can find no Gospel precept for devoting to the throwing away of the fruit of one's labours, and a day which I never will so devote again. However, I ought to have been earlier. On the Monday it rained. On the Monday night there came a sharp north-wester, with its usual companion,

at this season, that is to say, a sharp frost. Resolved to finish this piece on that day, I borrowed hands from my neighbours, who are always ready to assist one another. We had about two acres and a half to do; and it was necessary to employ *one half* of the hands to go before the *pullers* and loosen the turnips with a spade in the frosty ground. About ten o'clock, I saw that we should not finish, and there was every sign of a hard frost at night. In order, therefore, to expedite the work, I called in the aid of those efficient fellow labourers, a *pair of oxen*, which, with a good strong plough, going up on *one side* of each row of turnips, took away the earth close to the bulbs, left them bare on one side, and thus made it extremely easy to pull them up. We wanted spades no longer; all our hands were employed taking up the turnips; and our job, instead of being half done that day, was completed about two o'clock. Well and justly did Moses order, that the ox should not be muzzled while he was treading out the corn; for, surely, no animal is so useful, so docile, so gentle as these, while they require at our hands so little care and labour in return!

Now, it will be observed, that the turnips here spoken of, were put up when the ground and the turnips were frozen. Yet they have kept perfectly sound and good; and I am preparing to plant some of them for seed. I am now writing on the 10th of April. I send of these turnips to market, every week. The tops and tails and offal go to the pigs, to ewes and lambs, to a cow and working oxen, which all feed together upon this offal flung out about the barn-yard, or on the grass ground in the orchard; before they have done, they leave not a morsel. But, of *feeding*, I shall speak by and by.

The other crop of turnips, I mean those which were transplanted, *kept on growing luxuriantly until the very hard frosts came*, which I attribute to their being planted so late in the summer.

We were now got on to the 17th of December; and, I had *cabbages* to put up. Saturday, Sunday and Monday, the 21st, 22d and 23d, we had very hard frosts, as the reader, if he live on this island, will well remember. There came a *thaw* afterwards, and the transplanted turnips were put up like the others; but, this hard frost had pierced them too deeply, especially as they were in so tender and luxuriant a state. Many of these we find rotted near the neck; and upon the whole, they have suffered a loss of about *one half*. An acre, left to take their chance in the field, turned out, like most other games of hazard, a *total loss*. They were all rotted.

This loss arose wholly from my want of sufficient experience. I was anxious to neglect no necessary precaution; and I was fully impressed,

as I always am, with the advantages of being *early*. But, early in December, I lost a week at New York; and, though I worried my neighbours half to death to get at a knowledge of the time of the hard weather setting in, I could obtain no knowledge, on which I could rely, the several accounts being so different from each other. The general account was, that there would be no very hard weather until after Christmas. I shall know better another time! Major CARTWRIGHT says, in speaking of the tricks of the English Boroughmongers, at the "*glorious Revolution*," that they will never be able to play the *same tricks* again; for, that nations, like rational individuals, are not deceived twice in the same way.

Thus have I spoken of the *time and manner of harvesting*, as they took place with me. And, surely, the expense is a mere trifle. Two oxen and four men would harvest two acres in any clear day, in the latter end of November; and thus is this immense crop harvested and covered completely, for about two dollars and a half an acre. It is astonishing, that this is never done in England! For, though it is generally said, that the Ruta Baga will stand any weather, I know by experience, that it will not stand any weather. The winter of the year 1814, that is to say, the months of January and February, were very cold and a great deal of snow fell; and in a piece of twelve acres, I had, in the month of March, two thirds of the turnips *completely rotten*; and these were amongst the finest that I ever grew, many of them weighing twelve pounds each.

Besides, when taken up in *dry weather*, before the freezings and thawings begin, the dirt all falls off; and the bulbs are clean and nice to be given to the cattle or sheep in the stalls or yards. For, though we, in general, feed off these roots *upon the land* with sheep, we cannot, in deep land, always do it. The land is too *wet*; and particularly for ewes and lambs, which are, in such cases, brought into a piece of pasture land, or into a fold-yard, where the turnips are flung down to them in a *dirty* state, just carted from the field. And, again, the land is very much injured, and the labour augmented, by carting when the ground is a sort of mud-heap, or rather, pool. All these inconveniences would be avoided by harvesting in a dry day in November, if such a day should, by any accident be found in England; but, why not do the work in October, and sow wheat, at once, in the land? More on this after cropping another time.

In Long Island, and throughout the United States, where the weather is so fine in the fall; where every day, from the middle of October to the end of November, (except a rainy day about once in sixteen days) is as fair as the fairest May-

day in England, and where such a thing as a *water-furrow* in a field was never heard of; in such a soil as this, and under such a climate as this, there never can arise any difficulty in the way of the harvesting of turnips in the proper time. I should certainly do it in *November*; for, as we have seen, a *little frost* does not affect the bulbs at all. I would put them in when perfectly dry; make my heaps of about fifty bushels; and when the frost approached, I mean the *hard frosts*, I would cover with corn-stalks, or straw, or cedar boughs, as many of the heaps as I thought I should want in January and February; for, these coverings would so break the frost, as to enable me to open the heaps in those severe months. It is useless and inconvenient to take into barns, or out-houses, a very large quantity at a time. Besides, if left *uncovered*, the very hard frosts will do them harm. To be sure, this is easily prevented, in the barn, by throwing a little straw over the heap, but, being, by the means that I have pointed out, always kept ready in the field, to bring a larger quantity than is used in a *week*, or thereabouts, would be wholly *unnecessary*, besides being troublesome from the great space, which would thus be occupied.

It is a great advantage in the cultivation of this crop, that the *sowing*, or transplanting time comes *after* all the spring grain and the Indian corn are safe in the ground, and *before* the harvest of grain begins; and then again, in the fall, the taking up of the roots comes after the grain and corn and buckwheat harvests, and even after the sowing of the winter grain. In short, it seems to me, that the cultivation of this crop, in this country, comes, as it were, expressly to fill up the unemployed spaces of the farmer's time; but, if he prefer standing with his arms folded, during these spaces of time, and hearing his flock bleat themselves half to death in March and April, or have no flock, and scarcely any cattle or hogs, raise a few loads of yard-dung, and travel five miles for ashes and buy them dear at the end of the five miles; if he *prefer* these, then, certainly, I shall have written on this subject in vain.

QUANTITY OF CROP.

It is impossible for me to say, at present, what quantity of Ruta Baga may be grown on an acre of land in this island. My three acres of *ridged* turnips, sown on the 26th of June, were very unequal; but, upon one of the acres, there were *six hundred and forty bushels*; I mean *heaped bushels*; that is to say, an English statute bushel, heaped as long as the commodity will lie on. The transplanted turnips yielded about *four hundred* bushels to the acre: but, then observe, they were put in a full month too late. This year, I shall make a fair trial.

I have given an account of my raising, upon five acres in one field, and twelve acres in another field, one thousand three hundred and twenty bushels to an acre, throughout the seventeen acres. I have no doubt of equalling that quantity on this island, and that, too, upon some of its poorest and most exhausted land. They tell me, indeed, that the last summer was a *remarkably* fine summer; so they said at Botley, when I had my first prodigious crop of Ruta Baga. This

is the case in all the pursuits of life. The moment a man excels those, who ought to be able and willing to do as well as he; that moment, others set to work to discover causes for his success other than those proceeding from himself. But, as I used to tell my neighbours at Botley, "You have had the *same* seasons that I have had. "Nothing is so *impartial* as weather." As long as this sort of observation, or inquiry, proceeds from a spirit of *emulation*, it may be treated with great indulgence; but when it discovers a spirit of *envy*, it becomes detestable, and especially in affairs of agriculture, where the appeal is made to our common Parent, and where no man's success can be injurious to his neighbour, while it must be a benefit to his country, or the country in which the success takes place. I must, however, say, and I say it with feelings of great pleasure, as well as from a sense of justice, that I have observed in the American farmers *no envy* of the kind alluded to; but, on the contrary, the greatest *satisfaction*, at my success; and not the least backwardness, but great forwardness, to applaud and admire my mode of cultivating these crops. Not so in England, where the farmers (*generally* the most stupid as well as the most slavish and most churlish part of the nation) envy all who excel them, while they are too obstinate to profit from the example of those whom they envy. I say *generally*; for there are many most honourable exceptions; and it is amongst that class of men, that I have my dearest and most esteemed friends; men of knowledge, of experience, of integrity, and of public spirit, equal to that of the best of Englishmen in the worst times of oppression. I would not exchange the friendship of one of these men for that of all the Lords that ever were created, though there are some of very able and upright minds too.

Then, if I may be suffered to digress a little further here, there exists, in England, an institution which has caused a sort of *identity of agriculture with politics*. The Board of Agriculture, established by Pitt, for the purpose of sending *spies* about the country, under the guise of agricultural surveyors, in order to learn the cast of men's politics as well as the taxable capacities of their farms and property; this Board gives no premium or praise to any but "*loyal farmers*," who are, generally, the greatest fools. I, for my part, have never had any communication with it. It was always an object of ridicule and contempt with me; but, I know this to be the rule of that body, which is, in fact, only a little twig of the vast tree of corruption, which stunts and blights and blasts all that approaches its poisoned purview. This Board has for its Secretary, Mr. ARTHUR YOUNG, a man of great talents, *bribed* from his good principles, by this place of five hundred pounds a year. But, Mr. Young, though a most able man, is not always to be trusted. He is a bold assenter; and very few of his statements proceed upon actual experiments. And, as to what this Board has *published*, at the public expense, under the name of *Communications*, I defy the world to match it as a mass of illiterate, unintelligible, and useless trash. The only paper published by this Board, that I ever thought worth keeping, was an account of the produce from a *single cow*, communicated by Mr. CRAMP, the jail-keeper of the County of Sussex; which contained very interesting and wonderful facts,

properly authenticated, and stated in a clear manner.

ARTHUR YOUNG is blind, and never attends the Board. Indeed, sorrowful to relate, he is become a *religious fanatic*, and this in so desperate a degree, as to leave no hope of any possible cure. In the pride of our health, and strength of mind as well as of body, we little dream of the chances and changes of old age. Who can read the "*Travels in France, Spain, and Italy*," and reflect on the present state of the admirable writer's mind, without feeling some diffidence as to what may happen to himself!

LORD HARDWICKE, who is now the President of the Board, is a man, not exceeding my negro, either in experience or natural abilities. A parcel of court-sycophants are the Vice-Presidents. Their Committees and Correspondents are a set of Justices of the Peace, Nabobs become Country-Gentlemen, and Parsons of the worst description. And thus is this a mere political job; a channel for the squandering of some thousands a year of the people's money upon worthless men, who ought to be working in the fields, or mending "*His Majesty's High Ways*."

Happily, politics in this country, have nothing to do with agriculture; and here, therefore, I think I have a chance to be fairly heard. I should, indeed, have been heard in England; but, I really could never bring myself to do any thing tending to improve the estates of the oppressors of my country; and the same consideration now restrains me from communicating information, on the subject of timber trees, which would be of immense benefit to England; and which information I shall reserve, until their tyranny shall be at an end. Castlereagh, in the fulness of his stupidity, proposed, in order to find employment for "*the population*," as he insolently called the *people of England*, that he would set them to dig holes one day and fill them up the next. I could tell him what to *plant* in the holes so as to benefit the country in an immense degree; but, like the human body, in some complaints, the nation would now be really injured by the communication of what, if it were in a healthy state, would do it good, and add to its strength and to all its means of exertion.

To return from this digression, I am afraid of *no bad seasons*. The *drought*, which is the great enemy to be dreaded in this country, I am quite prepared for. Give me ground that I can plough ten or twelve inches deep, and give me Indian corn spaces to plough in, and no sun can burn me up. I have mentioned Mr. Curwen's experiments before; or, rather *Tull's*. For, he it is, who made all the discoveries of this kind. Let any man, just to try, leave half a rod of ground *undug* from the month of May to that of October; and another half rod let him *dig* and *break fine* every ten or fifteen days. Then, whenever there has been fifteen or twenty days of good scorching sun, let him go and dig a hole in each. If he does not find the hard ground *dry as dust*, and the other *moist*, let him say that I know nothing about these matters. So erroneous is the common notion, that ploughing in *dry weather* lets in the drought!

Of course, proceeding upon this fact, which I state as the result of numerous experiments, I should, if visited with long droughts, give one or two additional ploughings between the crops

when growing. That is all; and, with this, in Long Island, I defy all droughts.

But, why need I insist upon this effect of ploughing in dry weather? Why need I insist on it in an Indian corn country? Who has not seen fields of Indian corn looking to-day, yellow and sickly, and in four days hence (the weather being dry all the while) looking green and flourishing, and this wonderful effect produced merely by the plough? Why, then, should not the same effect always proceed from the same cause? The deeper you plough the greater the effect however; for there is a greater body of earth to exhale from, and to receive back the tribute of the atmosphere. Mr. Curwen tells us of a piece of cattle cabbage, in a very dry time in July. They looked so yellow and blue, that he almost despaired of them. He sent in his ploughs; and a gentleman, who had seen them when the ploughs went in on the Monday, could scarcely believe his eyes when he saw them on the next Saturday, though it had continued dry all the week.

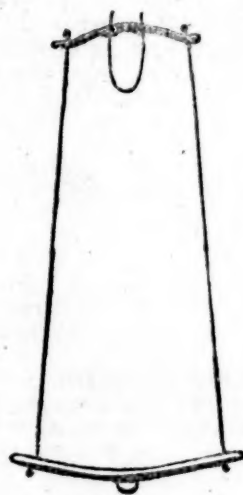
To perform these summer ploughings, in this island, is really nothing. I used one horse for the purpose last summer, and a very slight horse indeed. An ox is, however, better for this work; and this may be accomplished by the use of a collar and two traces, or by a single yoke and two traces. Tull recommends the latter, and I shall try it for Indian corn as well as for turnips. Horses, if they are strong enough, are not so steady as oxen, which are more patient also, and with which you may send the plough-share down without any of the fretting and unequal pulling, or jerking, that you have to encounter with horses. And, as to the slow pace of the ox, it is the old story of the tortoise and the hare. If I had known in England, of the use of oxen, what I have been taught upon Long Island, I might have saved myself some hundreds of pounds a year. I ought to have followed Tull in this as in all other parts of his manner of cultivating land. But, in our country, it is difficult to get a ploughman to look at an ox. In this island, the thing is done so completely and so easily, that it was, to me, quite wonderful to behold. To see one of those Long Islanders going into the field or orchard, at sun-rise, with his yoke in his hand, call his oxen by name to come and put their necks under the yoke, drive them before him to his plough, just hitch a hook on to the ring of the yoke, and then, without any thing except a single chain and the yoke, with no reins, no halters, no traces, no bridle, no driver, set on to plough, and plough a good acre and a half in the day; to see this would make an English farmer stare; and well it might, when he looked back to the ceremonious and expensive business of keeping and managing a plough-team in England.

These are the means, which I would, and which I shall use, to protect my crops against the effects of a dry season. So that, as every one has the same means at his command, no one need be afraid of drought. It is a bright plough-share that is always wanted much more than showers. With this culture there is no fear of a crop; and though it amount to only five hundred bushels on an acre, what crop is half so valuable.

The bulk of crop, however, in the broadcast, or random method, may be materially effected

by drought; for, in that case, the plough cannot come to supply the place of showers. The ground there, will be dry and keep dry in a dry time; as in the case of the supposed half rod of undug ground in the garden. The weeds, too, will come and help, by their roots, to suck the moisture out of the ground. As to the hand-hoeings, they may keep down weeds to be sure, and they raise a trifling portion of exhalation; but, it is a trifling indeed. Dry weather, if of long continuation, makes the leaves become of a bluish colour, and, when this is once the case, all the rain and all the fine weather in the world, will never make the crop a good one; because the plough cannot move amidst this scene of endless irregularity. This is one of the chief reasons why the ridge method is best.

(To be continued.)



Since the above was written, [see [*] in the preceding column] I have made a Single Ox-Yoke; and, I find it answer excellently well. Now, my work is much shortened; for in forming ridges, two Oxen are awkward. They occupy a wide space, and one of them is obliged to walk upon the ploughed land, which, besides making the ridge uneven at the top, presses the ground, which is injurious. For ploughing between the rows of Turnips and of Indian Corn also, what a great convenience this will be! An ox goes steadier than a horse, and will plough deeper without fretting and tearing; and he wants neither harness-maker nor groom. The plan of my yoke I took from TULL. I showed it to my workman, who chopped off the limb of a tree, and made the yoke in an hour. It is a piece of wood, with two holes to receive two ropes, about three quarters of an inch in diameter. These traces are fastened in the yoke merely by a knot, which prevents the ends from passing through the holes, while the other ends are fastened to the two ends of a Wiffle-tree, as it is called in Long Island, of a Whipple-tree, as it is called in Kent, and of a Whippance, as it is called in Hampshire. I am but a poor draftsman; but if the printer can find any thing to make the representation with, the preceding draft will clearly show what I have meant to describe in words. When the Corn (Indian) and Turnips get to a size, sufficient to attract the appetite of the ox,

you have only to put on a muzzle. This is what Mr. TULL did; for, though we ought not to muzzle the ox "as he treadeth out the corn," we may do it, even for his own sake, amongst other considerations, when he is assisting us to bring his crop to perfection.

The Ruta Baga Culture.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Fulton Street, New York, 19th April, 1819.

SIR—In the second part of my year's residence, I give some account of an extraordinary field of Ruta Baga (or Swedish Turnips,) which was, as I had been informed, growing near Liverpool. My son William, who arrived at Liverpool from New York, on the 12th of January, went to see this famous field, and the following is his report relating to it. What he adds respecting the mode of using this root is, I think, well worthy of the attention of American farmers. The letter, of which the following is an extract, is dated London, 28th January, 1819. If you think the extract, together with this explanatory note, worthy of a place in your paper, you will, by inserting them, confer an obligation on, sir, your most obedient servant,

WM. COBBETT.

"I had not time to write to you from Liverpool about a fine field of turnips I there saw; but the following is an account of it:—Half a ton off eight yards square ground, of Swedish turnips with heads and tails cut off, ready for market; and the selling price to cow-keepers and cattle-feeders, 2 pounds sterling per ton. Thus the report of the crop being worth 200*l.* per acre, is an exaggeration of only 40 in the 200. For this eight yards square, which is two statute rods, is only one Cheshire rod. The turnips were by far larger than any I ever saw before, and very thick on the ground; but, you must understand that it is only in patches that they are so very fine. They are sown upon the same plan that our bailiff had those three acres that you found in the Home field, at Hill-farm, after the villains let you out from Newgate that is, with the Northumberland drill upon a single-bout ridge, the ridges at two feet apart, and the plants thinned to one foot in the rows; they profess to have the intervals twenty-seven inches, but they are barely two feet.

"This crop, of upwards of thirty-seven tons, not including greens, to a statute acre, comes off and which was, a very few years since, a wild marsh. The soil is rather sandy, but moist, and no manure has ever been put on but horse and cow dung. They expect just as good a crop from the same piece of ground again next year, without any manure. I was very anxious to get a score of the best of these turnips, to send you with your seeds; but as the farmer was not at home, the poor creature of a man who stood shivering in the rain, holding a horse-rug over his shoulders, did not know "how he would take it!" This was something new to me.

"This cultivation of the Swedish turnip is very general in Lancashire. I saw along the road many fields of them, but no white turnips; and, what is very odd, not a field with a gally [bare] place, though parts of it were sown at three or four different times, one after the other, while

nobody in Hampshire has, this year, any such thing as a field of turnips. *Robert*, (a nickname for the *fly*) more than ordinarily voracious, eat them all up. But, besides, the fellows in the northern counties, having got the crops, they have, likewise, what is as full as much, and that is, the art and mystery of using them. It is a common practice to steam turnips for cows and horses. One man in particular, Mr. Brotherton, who is owner of most of the stages from Liverpool, on the Manchester road, grows the turnips and steams them regularly, as a principal part of the food for his working coach horses. I did not hear of this till I was coming along in the coach, or I should have gone and seen all about it."

N. B. Forty bushels, heaped measure, make a ton; so that here are 1430 bushels to the American acre, selling for 74 pounds sterling (or 333 dollars) an acre; and that too, at an *English shilling* a bushel, which is not a quarter of a dollar, while the same sort of turnip is selling, wholesale, at New York, for a dollar a bushel! What a fine cargo to send hither! But let us hope, that after this year, America will stand in need of no such cargoes. I hope that we shall show, this summer, that we know how to profit from rain, and sun, and fine land, as well as other people. I mean, this year, to try whether *Hampstead Plains* will not beat this famous Lancashire crop.

From the Practical American Gardener.

For the Month of May.

[CONTINUED.]

Brussels, Sprouts, and Jerusalem Kale.

The Brussels' Sprouts and Jerusalem Kale, to be managed as the Borocole.

Turnip Cabbage and Turnip rooted Cabbage.

The seed of the turnip cabbage, may now be sown and the plants afterwards treated as directed for cabbages; but do not earth them above the swelling bulb or stem. The turnip rooted kind, should be sown on a bed of strong rich ground, and treated as turnips. Thin the plants with the hoe, to the distance of 16 inches apart.

The early sown plants may now be planted out.

Broccoli.

The early sown broccoli plant should now be planted out into beds of good rich earth, in an open situation at the distance of three feet every way.

Broccoli seeds should be sown early, in this month, for a second principal crop, for winter and spring use. On the opening of the spring, plant out the stalks of the purple kind, and they will produce abundance of sprouts.

Management of Beans in blossom.

The early mazagan, long podded, Windsor bean, &c. should be topped, when arrived at full bloom, and the lower pods beginning to set. The early mazagan bean, may be topped, when about two feet high, and the larger sort, when about three feet high; this may be done with the finger and thumb.

Sowing Peas.

A few of the early hotspur peas, where a suc-

cession is wanted, may be sown twice this month.

Transplanting Lettuces.

In moist weather, transplant such of the lettuce, sown in the two former months, as are fit, not near trees, but in the open ground.

Dig the ground neatly, and rake the surface smooth, then dibble in the plants, in rows, ten or twelve inches asunder, and the same distance from one another in the rows; water them immediately, and repeat it occasionally, until they have taken root.

Such as are intended to remain for heading, where sown, should now be thinned to about ten or twelve inches every way.

Sowing Lettuce Seed.

Lettuce seed of various kinds, may now be sown, two or three times, this month, for a constant supply. The different heading kinds, also, the Aleppo and Egyptian cos which do not head like the other kinds; but if tied up, as endive, they will blanch, and be very crisp. The various kinds of cos, which are now beginning to gather and whiten in the heart, should be tied up with strings of Russia mats, only a few at once.

Sowing Small Sallading.

Sow a variety of small sallading, every week, or ten days; for these, shoot to seed at this season very rapidly; such as cresses or pepper-grass, &c. Sow the seeds, at this season in shallow drills, on shady borders, cover them lightly, and give them occasional waterings.

Kidney Beans.

A principal crop of kidney beans should be planted, in the first week of this month, and successive crops, about the middle and also towards the end.

Any of the dwarf kinds may now be planted. The cream-coloured, brown speckled, yellow and white, are the earliest sorts, and should be chosen for the first crop.

Let double drills be made for them, with a hoe, about two and a half feet asunder, and an inch and a half deep; drop the beans therein at the distance of two or three inches from one another, draw the earth smoothly over them.

The various kinds of running beans, may also, now be sown in drills, four or five feet asunder, and the seeds planted double the distance, of the dwarf sort, from one another. When the plants come up, and their runners begin to shoot, let some tall sticks, or poles, be placed to each row, for them to climb upon, they will soon take hold and twine themselves around the poles to the height of eight or ten feet, or more.

The Scarlet runner though in some of the eastern states it produces plentifully, in the middle states seldom produces much, and is only cultivated for the beauty of its flowers.

Carolina and Lima Beans.

The Carolina beans may be planted in the first week of this month, and treated as directed for the running kidney beans.

The Lima beans, should not be planted, in the middle states, before the middle of the month, when vegetation is very brisk, for they are subject to rot, if planted in cold weather, when the ground is moist. They should have a light sandy rich soil, and be planted in hills at the distance

of six feet from hill to hill; and the poles for their support, ought to be strong and near ten feet high. Both these kinds are very productive, will continue bearing till overtaken by frost, and are very delicious.

Radishes.

Hoe, or weed, and thin the advancing crops of radishes. Continue to sow a fresh supply, every two weeks.

Planting Radishes for Seed.

Transplant radishes for seed when the roots are just in their prime; set them in the ground in showery weather, if possible, if not give them frequent waterings. Choose for this purpose, some of the best kinds, long, perfectly strait rooted, and with short tops; those of clear pale red, and those of a deep purple, are to be preferred.

Plant the roots by dibble, in rows four feet asunder, and one foot in the row, in an open situation, and give them a good watering immediately after.

Select also, some of the best formed white and red turnip-rooted radishes, of moderate growth, hoe out the others and let them remain for seed; or if necessity requires, you may transplant them; in that case, plant the bulbs in the earth, leaving the tops free, and water them.

Spinach.

Weed and thin the spinach sown last month; and of the early crops, both of the round leaved and prickly seeded kinds, leave a sufficiency, both of the male and female plants for seed.

If a continuation is required, sow more of the smooth seed.

Cleaning and thinning Carrots and Parsnips.

Carrots may now be well cleared from weeds, and the plants thinned to about six or seven inches apart. Parsnips should also be attended to in like manner, and thinned to from eight to ten inches asunder, and the ground hoed between them.

Planting out Celery.

Some of the early celery plants, from the seed-bed should now be picked out, to obtain strength, previous to a final planting in trenches. They should be planted at the distance of three inches from one another, on beds of rich loose earth, watered immediately, and afterwards occasionally till they grow freely; and when they have acquired sufficient strength, they are to be planted in trenches, as directed in June.

Asparagus.

Asparagus is in the best state for cutting when the shoots are from two to four inches above ground, and the buds are close and compact. Keep the beds free from weeds and discontinue the general cutting, as soon as the stalks appear small and weaker than usual, as it would exhaust the roots, and injure the next year's produce.

Sowing Celery Seed.

Sow more celery seed for a principal later crop: shade them in hot sunny weather, and give them occasional waterings.

Beets.

Weed the early beets, and thin them to eight or nine inches, plant from plant. Continue to sow some of the red beet seed in drills.

Ruta Baga, or Swedish Turnip.

The *Ruta Baga* is more of the species of the turnip-rooted cabbages, than the common garden or field turnip. If the seed has not been sown in the last month, it may be sown, in the broadcast way, early in this. As the plants advance in their growth, they should be hoed out to the distance of about sixteen inches every way; they will continue increasing in size, till late in autumn, when, if not used before, they may be taken up, and preserved through the winter, in like manner as turnips; they are more hardy, will keep better, and be as fresh in May, as at Christmas.

The flesh of the root is yellow, sweet, and firm, being nearly twice as heavy, as the root of the common turnip of the same size. It is by many people preferred to the common turnip.

Onions.

The onions which were sown at an early season, with an expectation of their growing to a sufficient size the first year for table use, should now be perfectly cleared from weeds, and the plants thinned to about three inches from each other; some of them should be pulled out at an early period, and kept clear of weeds, from the first sowing, till they arrive at perfection.

Onion seed may be now sown broadcast, on rather a poor soil, to raise small bulbs for the next year's crop, and if the ground should be very dry, you may water them occasionally.

Turnips.

Hoe and thin your turnips, and sow some more of the early Dutch, in the beginning of this month, for a succession. The sowing should be performed immediately after rain; sow them thin and even, and rake the ground smooth.

Hamburg Parsley, Scorzonera, and Salsafy.

The large rooted parsley, scorzonera, and salsafy, must now be carefully cleaned from weeds and thinned to about six inches asunder.

Early in this month, sow principal crops for autumn and winter.

Capsicums or Red Peppers.

Early in this month you may sow, in a bed of rich earth, seeds of various kinds of capsicums; the large flat kind, commonly called *bull-nose*, is that which is preferred for pickling. These plants may be planted out in rows, about the first of June.

The early plants raised in hot-beds, should in the middle states, be now planted out, where they are to remain taking advantage of the moist or rainy weather. The rows to be two feet asunder and the plants eighteen inches apart in the rows. When planted, give each some water occasionally, to be kept free from weeds.

Tomatoes.

Sow the seeds of tomatoes in the first week in this month, on a warm sandy soil, to remain for fruiting, or they may be transplanted as before directed. Plant from the hot beds, about the middle of this month those plants, which are forwarded therein; about two feet apart, and provide supports for them to run on; or they may be trained to fences, as they run greatly, if kept clear of weeds.

Momordica or Balsam Apple.

There are two species of this plant, the large and the small.

The large balsam apple is a great runner, and requires a trellis twelve or fourteen feet high to run on, in order to support it, in the best manner; it will require some assistance in training it with strings. When it begins to produce fruit, the appearance is beautiful; they are sometimes from twelve to fifteen inches in length, and as they begin to ripen, are of a high, rich orange colour; and are much admired in our markets, though as a vulnerary, the smaller kind is preferable.

The seeds of the large sort (as well as the smaller) should be planted about the middle of this month, where they are to remain, as they do not bear transplanting; the soil should be very fine and rich. Put four or five seeds in a place, and if they all come up, permit only two to stand; should they be intended to form an arbour, others may be planted at three or four feet distance, and attended to in like manner; or they may be planted and treated as Carolina and Lima beans, and supported by long poles.

The smaller kind may be planted as the above, and when they appear above ground, fix sticks four or five feet high, for them to climb upon.

Egg-Plants.

About the middle of this month, you should set out, for fruiting, the early plants, which were forwarded in the hot-beds. A rich sandy soil is the most suitable for them. Plant them two and a half feet asunder. As they advance in growth, draw some earth about their stems; keep them clean from weeds.

Endive.

Some endive may now be sown for an early crop; but at this season, it is very apt to run to seed, and towards the latter end of the month, more may be sown. The white and green curled endive are the sorts to sow now. When the plants are about three inches high, they should be transplanted into beds, at the distance of ten or twelve inches from each other, and immediately watered.

(To be continued.)

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

To the Lieutenants and Midshipmen

OF

THE UNITED STATES' NAVY.

No. II.

GENTLEMEN,

With every disposition on the part of your country to furnish you the means of obtaining practical information in the line of your profession, many of you must necessarily remain unemployed at sea, for the want of room on board our ships. You are, however, generally, attached to navy-yards, to ships in ordinary, or in port, and you have the opportunity of storing your minds with information highly necessary to perfect you in the knowledge of the duties of an experienced commander, and if this is denied you, in whatever situation you may be placed, the means are afforded you of acquiring those liberal attainments, without which, no one can be an accomplished officer, and which may be more

useful to those of the navy than of any other profession. No gentleman should be without them; and, at least of all, should you deprive yourselves of the golden opportunity which now presents itself; you, who are individually and collectively responsible for the character and standing of your country among foreign nations; you, who are to be its representatives abroad; you, who are frequently to decide on great national questions, and are to stand before princess and potentates of all nations, to sustain the rights of your country, founded on national law. Do you not deem it necessary to qualify yourselves in a knowledge of those languages, and those laws, which may hereafter not only render you useful, but highly ornamental? The time may be, and the circumstance may occur, that, from a single individual of the navy, the character of his nation may be inferred. Suppose, for example, some of our ships, in their extensive cruises for your instruction, or for other purposes, should touch at the port of some one of the princes of India, who had never seen an American, we will suppose the commander to call on him; we will suppose this commander to be a highly accomplished officer, capable of imparting to the prince a correct knowledge of our country, its political institutions, its commerce, &c. &c.; we will suppose his manners dignified, his whole conduct imposing,—would it not, I ask, be natural for this prince to infer that this officer was a fair sample of his nation? and is it not likely, that, in the event of commercial or other intercourse between us and the prince, we should derive some advantage from the favourable impressions produced by this officer on his mind? This is the situation in which you may all be placed; no rank is exempted from it; every officer, from the admiral, who commands his fleets, to the midshipman, to whom no distinct duties can be assigned, are all liable to it. What will be the pride of your country, if you, as their representative, acquit yourselves honourably? what their mortification, if otherwise? With such strong inducements, then, before you, need I admonish you of the necessity of applying all your leisure to those studies, which the paternal care of your country affords you the means of perfecting yourselves in, and without which, the nature of your profession, and the early period at which you have embraced it, would deprive you of the opportunity of doing? Let not the time be uselessly spent that is not occupied in search of knowledge purely professional, and even you, who are actively employed, do not place so high a value on your personal exertions, as to obstruct your mind from higher considerations. The strength that can execute, and the bravery that nothing can daunt, are highly estimable; but of what avail is strength and courage without the skill to direct them. They are estimable in the ox and the horse: man may possess them, and be despised. Courage and strength alone, never yet constituted what is generally called a great man. The most accomplished statesmen and warriors, have been men frequently remarkable for their feeble constitutions and want of personal strength, than otherwise; nay, the greatest naval hero that the world has produced, was infirm and a cripple when he gained his greatest victories. And how did he rise to that degree of splendour, which has daz-

zled the world? Not so much by his courage and strength, as by the most unremitting attentions to every thing which related to a knowledge of the duties of a naval officer. From an obscure cabin boy, through every successive grade, he rose to the rank of admiral,—the protector of his country, her pride and her glory, the scourge and the dread of her enemies; the saviour of states, the companion of kings! There were some blemishes in his character, but it was its brilliancy that rendered them so conspicuous.

The rise of a navy officer is slow, but progressive; if he has merit, every day brings him nearer to his goal; the race of Nelson, was long and tedious. Nearly the whole period allotted to the life of man, was spent, ere he had attained the meridian of his glory. But can this be so much the case in our navy? Has not promotion been so rapid, as to scarcely allow the time necessary to qualify those who are advanced to a higher rank? And have we not seen those in command of squadrons, who, but a very few years since, entered the service as midshipmen? Such has been the rapidity of promotion, and equally (and if possible more) rapid it promises to be; but do not flatter yourselves to obtain it without deserving it. No rules have heretofore been established in relation to promotion: they are now adopted; public notice has been given of the time when examinations will take place, and every thing shows a disposition on the part of the government to enforce them. Formerly, some obtained promotion, who have proved unworthy of it; now, none can receive it but those who bid fair to become useful and ornamental to their country. Such may, under the existing rules, demand promotion, for they are entitled to it. Now, compare your situation with those of the same classes in the British navy; let us look at the letters of the "Post Captain," mentioned in my former address to you; he says, in pages 2, 3, and 4 of his introduction, that a midshipman must serve six years before he can obtain the rank of lieutenant; that few, except the sons of men of interest, obtain the rank of captain before thirty, and that the average age of arriving at the rank of rear admiral, is fifty-five years, a period of exposure and servitude sufficient to wear out any but an iron constitution. You may be admirals in the time required to form a British post captain! What is the language placed by the "Post Captain" in the mouth of a British lieutenant? "*What is the use of my exerting myself? I have no chance of promotion. I shall be a first lieutenant until I am gray headed; then, perhaps, I may be promoted, by seniority.*" Page 6 of letters.

After complaining bitterly of the existing state of things, in the administration of the British navy, and recommending a system corresponding with the one which has been established by us, he says,

"There is a growing marine on the other side the Atlantic, that will, in another war, dispute with us the dominion of the seas. We may at first beat them by numbers; but, unless we alter our system they will beat us singly; and the maritime nations of Europe will be as glad to assist them in reducing our power at sea, as the continent to overturn the military sway of France."

"Your lordship will excuse my speaking plain;

the state of the navy requires it, and the safety of the country demands it." Page 7.

Such is the language of a British "Post Captain;" but do not let it lull you into a confidence of your own superiority; a confidence which was felt by British naval officers, and which has brought on England the evils which she now deplores; rather let it rouse your best energies to render the foregoing quotations prophetic.

A NAVAL OFFICER.

MISCELLANY.

SELECTIONS.

The eighteenth century, beyond any in the circle of authentic history, has been distinguished for the application of mechanical means in aid of the physical powers of mankind. It has been estimated, that, in the Island of Great Britain alone, the use of machinery was so general, as to have been equivalent to an addition to the population of one hundred millions of adult persons.

Boston Manufacturers.—There have been finished this week at *Doggett's* Manufactory, in Market Street, a pair of *Looking Glasses*, the piers of which are 72 by 40 inches. They have been purchased by one of our patriotic citizens, and now adorn his elegant mansion. The price paid for them, was nine hundred dollars; and we think them richly worth every cent of the money. We have a double satisfaction in noticing this subject;—in the first place, that we have a mechanic capable of executing so superb a specimen of finished American Workmanship; and in the next, that we possess citizens able and willing to patronise such talent and enterprise. We feel no hesitation in saying, that the carved work, gilding, &c. of these glasses, would vie with the best productions of workshops of London or Paris.—*Boston Papi.*

Portland April, 21.—Arrived in this town last week, Admiral GEORGE TATE, of the Russian Navy, on a visit to his relatives and friends who reside in this place and vicinity. Admiral Tate came with his parents to this country from England, when between one and two years of age, and resided in that part of Falmouth called Stroudwater. At the age of twenty, he left this for the West Indies, and thence to England—and soon after entered the Russian service—in which he has continued ever since, a period of forty-eight years, and by his merit and good conduct, as an officer and gentleman, has risen to the first rank and command in his profession. Admiral Tate is also a member of the Russian Senate, the highest court of the Empire.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The commercial world will learn with satisfaction, that a plan has been commenced under the auspices of the British government, for determining the relative contents of the weights and measures of all trading countries. This important subject is to be accomplished by procuring from abroad, correct copies of foreign standards, and comparing them with those of

England at his majesty's mint. Such a comparison, which could be effected only at a moment of universal peace, has never been attempted on a plan sufficiently general or systematic; and hence the errors and contradictions which abound in tables of foreign weights and measures even in works of the highest authority. In order, therefore, to remedy an inconvenience so perplexing in commerce, viscount Castlereagh has, by the recommendation of the board of trade, issued a circular, dated March 16, 1818, directing all the British consuls abroad, to send home copies of the principal standards used within their respective consulates, verified by the proper authorities and accompanied by explanatory papers and other documents relative to the subject. Most of his lordship's orders have been already executed in a very full and satisfactory manner. The despatches and packages transmitted on the occasion, are deposited at the royal mint, where the standards are to be forthwith compared.

Marvellous.—A circumstance has recently taken place at Fablun, the capital of Delacarla, in Sweden, which might figure with advantage in a novel. In working to establish a new communication between two shafts of a mine, the body of a miner was discovered in a state of perfect preservation, and impregnated with vitriolic water. This body was quite soft, but hardened on being exposed to the air. No one could identify the individual; it was only recollected, that the accident by which he had been buried in the earth, had taken place fifty years ago. All inquiries as to the name of the sufferer, had already ceased, when a decrepid woman leaning upon crutches, slowly advanced towards the corpse, and knew it to be that of a young man to whom she had been promised in marriage, half a century ago. She threw herself on the body, which had the appearance of bronze, bathed it with tears and fainted with joy at having once more beheld the object of her affection, this side the grave. It is easier to conceive than to trace the contrast offered by this couple—the one buried fifty years ago still answering all the appearances of youth; while the other, weighed down by age, evinced all the fervency of youthful love.

In Sanda, one of the Orkney Isles, the sand has lately been blown away to the depth of nearly twenty feet, and has discovered the remains of buildings of remote antiquity, enclosed by stone walls nearly half a mile in extent; some of the houses are very large, and roofed with stones of prodigious size. There are circular tumuli each containing three graves, none of which are more than four feet six inches in length; and there is no tradition afloat that can throw light on these very curious remains which have undergone hitherto but a very slight investigation.

RAPID GROWTH.

Killed at Easton, in the County of Bristol, Mass. the 12th instant, a Hog the property of CYRUS LOTHROP, Esq. one year and 8 months old, which weighed 742 lbs. The thickness of his pork measured nine inches in the clear. He girthed five feet round the neck, seven round the

largest part of his body, and was six feet and 2 inches in length. He was purchased on the 3d day of December, 1817; at that time a small Pig, and so unpromising in appearance, that he would not sell for half the then market price. He discovered no signs of uncommon growth until April, 1818; from which time, until he was killed, the rapidity of his increase was really astonishing. He gained in one year, six hundred and sixty-five pounds!!

It is said of Lopez de Vega, the Shakspeare of Spain, that he was once asked by the bishop of Bellerio to explain one of his sonnets, which the bishop said he had often read, but never understood. Lopez took up the sonnet; and after reading it over and over several times, frankly acknowledged that he did not understand it himself.

BALTIMORE:

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1819.

On the cultivation of Indian Corn—

method of planting described—fluctuation of price—its causes—choice of seed—mode of curing it recommended.

As the season is at hand for planting Indian Corn, we beg leave to invite the attention of Agriculturists to some particulars, wherein experiments may be tried, to improve the quality and to increase the quantity of that most important and valuable grain, deservedly considered the staff and the boast of our country. It is probably, too late now, to make any suggestions relative to the *mode of planting*—as, before this will reach the eye of the reader, he will have progressed too far in his preparations to adopt any new plan; for those, however, who may have it in their power to make the trial, we will here mention the system adopted by Col. Taylor, of Caroline, Virginia, and now, as we understand, practised and highly approved of, to a considerable extent in that state.

According to his plan, corn should be planted at the distance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet square, with two or three stalks in a hill, according to the strength of the ground; on that which is quite poor, one grain is deemed enough for each hill.—This is the method pursued by him, on land that will not produce more than 40 bushels to the acre; and, in Maryland, we are sorry to say, very few farmers make that much, except, perhaps in Frederick and Washington Counties. The rows are never ploughed but in *one direction*, that is, north and south. If the land will produce more than 40 bushels, it may, according to his opinion and practice, be planted $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet one way, and *two feet nine inches the other*; *cross ploughing* is wholly abandoned; and the roots, in one direction, remain uncut through the whole period of cultivation. The most common mode in this state, is to plant it equi-distant in all directions, about 6 feet each way, and to plough it both ways alternately. Very little pains is taken in the first instance, to have the furrow made perfectly strait, as it might be done; and what gives to the field a still more slowly appearance, and is attended with disadvantages and embarrassment through the whole course of cultivation, the entire want of method, or precision, in arranging the dis-

tance of the hills from each other, in the line of the furrow.

The usual mode, after the field is *listed*, without any gauge but the ploughman's eye, is, for each labourer to take his hoe and *crossing the furrow*, dig a hole for the corn at what he *guesses* to be about six feet, having no guide but his eye, and his imagination, both of which are often dwelling on other objects—so, that nothing can be more irregular and unseemly, than a field of young corn so planted. One might suppose, to look at it, that it had been dropt by a blind or a drunken man.—The irregularity in the standing of such corn, prevents one from *seeing through* a row of a few hundred yards in length.—It requires continual watchfulness, afterwards, on the part of an *uninterested slave ploughman*, who must take special care to make a *zig zag* furrow, lest by a straight line furrow he should cut up one half of the hills.

The method spoken of by Col. Taylor, of fixing the distance of the hills by coloured rags on a string, is no doubt very good; another and a very simple one, which we have seen practised, is to fasten two small sapplings, so, that the two ends, which are intended to make the mark across the furrow, shall be at whatever distance the corn is designed to be planted in that direction.—These sapplings are fastened by a cross bar, uniting them just behind the horse; the other two ends are brought nearer, so as to be about the distance before, as the shafts of a horse cart, and fastened like them to the hames—a back bank fastened to a hook, a staple or a pin on each side, and crossing over a common cart or packsaddle, constitutes the whole gear necessary for this simple instrument, which may be constructed with an axe and an augur, by any ploughman, without the aid of a nail or of a black-smith.

In the use of this sledge, it will be observed, that having made one straight line *across* the furrows, by keeping the heel of one shaft, always in the last outside mark made by the other shaft—then dropping the corn where these marks cross, the furrows, every one is sure to be of *precisely the same distance*.—The sledge is controlled by the workman, with perfect ease, by means of a small bow of green wood, each end of which is put through an auger hole, and wedged in near the lower end of each shaft of the sledge; making a handle for the workman. In the common way, as here described, the sledge marks one row each time, but it might easily be so constructed as to describe two or even three rows at least, for corn planted at the distance of two feet 9 inches.

AS TO THE TIME OF PLANTING.

On the western shore, in the lower counties of this state, with whose practice the Editor is more conversant, the usual time "fixed by the old people," is from the 1st to the 20th of May, but most commonly they commence about the 10th of that month. On the eastern shore of Maryland, it is believed they plant, on an average, 10 days sooner; the object, being, probably, to gain time for *replanting*; but it often happens, that the corn planted so early, *rots in the ground*, for want of sufficient atmospheric heat to promote vegetation: we incline to think, that in this, as in other crops the latter planting is the best system, as it ensures an *off hand* and *uninterrupted*

vegetation and growth, which must be in all cases of great advantage.

THE NUMBER OF SEED IN A HILL.

In our humble judgment, it would be better to double the usual number, which is three or four; and the reasoning is this:—

The great enemies to young corn in our country are the crow and the black bird—by which, soon after it makes its appearance, it is seized and pulled up. These vile robbers, in a state, naturally, either of restlessness or of constant apprehension, remain but a short time at each hill: so that it would generally happen, that if they remained long enough to pull up, say two or three grains, the usual number planted, they would most probably "hop off," leaving still a sufficient number of surviving stalks, if six or eight had been planted. If none should be pulled up by the birds, they are easily thinned at a proper season.

Again—by planting a greater number of grains, the roots of all become so intertwined with each other, that the bird cannot easily draw up one without bringing along the whole mass, which either exceeds his strength, or the strength of the young stalk.

AS TO THE KIND OF CORN.

On this point, much might be said, as much depends on the purposes for which it is intended, the climate where it is to be cultivated, and the nature of the land.

What at first appeared strange to us, and may so appear to some of our readers, is, not so much that the price of corn varies almost every day in the Baltimore market, from one to three cents per bushel, but, that different kinds of corn, should be each, alternately, higher and lower, than the other.

These irregularities grow out of a variety of causes.—They are a source of perplexity and of considerable fault finding amongst the Planters of Maryland, many of whom attribute it to occasional combinations amongst the purchasers here. If we knew of, or if any person will convince us of such combinations to forestall or monopolise; as the sincere friend and humble advocate of the Agriculturist, we will not hesitate to expose and reprobate them; but we feel persuaded, that such combinations are much more easily imagined or apprehended, than they are *actually formed*. We are of opinion, that these vibrations of price turn on other causes. The rise or fall, in general, speaking without regard to any particular kind of corn, depends on the quantity in market at the time, and on the general demand, for home and foreign markets; this is the course of nature, and is a sort of truism, which we need scarcely have repeated.—The other irregularity, respecting the alternate prevalence of higher prices, for *yellow* or for *white* corn, is not so generally understood. This depends on the relative proportions of each in market, combined with a view to the particular foreign market for which the demand happens, at the moment, to exist, and where, for all we can learn, the price of either, depends, not so much on any intrinsic difference between them, as on the taste and prejudices which prevail amongst different people in different countries. For the southern ports within the United States, for example, the *white* corn, is purchased almost exclu-

sively; it is intended for blacks, employed in the more profitable cultivation of rice and cotton; and blacks are known, it is believed, every where, to entertain a strong disinclination, not to say antipathy, to *yellow corn*; so that, if a few vessels happen to "be up," as the merchants phrase it, for the southern, and none for the eastern states, white corn rises a few cents above yellow.

On the other hand, for the *Eastern States*, where "the folks" calculate very nicely the length, breadth and the weight of things; where they have no slaves, and where the corn is fed to their horses and other live stock, none but yellow corn is demanded, that being considered more solid and nutritious than white. To the West Indies and the Portuguese markets, the yellow corn is usually exported; to Madeira and other markets, we have been told, the white is usually sent. The much greater part of the great quantity consumed in this city, is white; and far the larger proportion of all that is sold in this market, is of that colour.

With a view merely to the *price*, however, the farmer might select the one, or the other, with, in general, an equal chance of a satisfactory price. His selection, therefore, should be guided with a view to *quantity*, having an eye to the strength of his land, as that which yields most on rich, could not be sustained on poor land.

From our observation upon the different species of corn, cultivated in this state, we should give the preference to the *long yellow narrow grained gourdseed*,* unless it were on land so poor that we should not wish to cultivate it at all: For all our river bottoms, and for tolerably good strong upland, we think it possesses decided advantages over other kinds. These advantages consist in no superiority of quality, but in the greater quantity which it yields. It has been objected to, that it has *too large a cob*; but is it not manifest, that the larger the circumference of the cob, the greater the quantity of grain necessary to cover it? To this corn, the grain of which is much longer than any other, this observation applies in an eminent degree.

We have been credibly informed, and believe the fact, that a *barrel* of the ears of this corn, will shell six bushels, and often more, of grain; whereas from other kinds, not more than five are expected. The common number of rows on an ear, is from 14 to 22† on the yellow gourd seed; the writer of this has several times seen *forty perfect rows*; for the truth of which, reference may be had to the venerable and much respected Chief Judge of the Maryland District Court of the United States, to whom the Editor once sent one containing that number.

* It is a fact, we presume generally known, that corn never has an odd number of rows.

The quantity of grain which corn will yield in proportion to its bulk in the ear, may be measured by fastening a paper close round the ear, then withdrawing it, and *shelling* the grain into the paper. The grain, if a sound ear of genuine gourd seed corn, will fill the space thus occupied by the whole ear.

† The stock of this corn was procured from the late Basil Brooke, who cultivated it on Battle creek and from whose nearest representative, the Editor endeavoured to procure a few ears, but without success.

This corn, it is true, takes longer to dry, and is more liable to be injured in the loft than other corn, owing to the *length* of the grain and the *compactness* of the rows, and perhaps also to the thickness of the husk. This is the only argument we have heard against the adoption of it; but if the corn-loft be properly constructed, all danger on that score may be obviated, and as to the idea that it is longer in ripening, and more likely to be overtaken by the frost; the Editor of this paper affirms, that he remembers, when quite a boy, that his lamented father, residing near the Court House, in Calvert County, had his whole crop of this corn husked and lofted by the *last day of October*. The object, he believes, was, to sow wheat in the field. The corn was thoroughly and soundly cured, but it was probably saved by the following extraordinary process, which is worthy of record and of further trial.

The loft was that of a round log house, used below for a stable. The floor of the loft consisted of thick sleepers, split out of chesnut timber, and the edges not quite touching. A fire was kindled below for several days in succession, not to heat but to smoke the corn. The smoke did pass accordingly through the whole mass, say 150 barrels, and the corn was thoroughly and completely dried and cured.

It has often since occurred, that this plan might be put in practice with great advantage, and would allow corn to be gathered at an earlier period. It goes conclusively to obviate the objections against that kind of corn, and leaves it, on a consideration of all other circumstances, without a rival or competitor, in the estimation of the Editor of the *American Farmer*.

Very late from England.

Boston, April 23, 1819.

By the fast sailing ship Triton, capt. Holcomb, in 18 days from Liverpool, we have received from our correspondents in London, files to the end of March, and Liverpool papers to the 3d inst. We have copied the articles which they furnish of greatest interest to the American reader. Tranquillity seems to have been in a greater measure restored in France. The new members of the chamber of peers had been principally qualified and taken their seats. The chamber of deputies had not been dissolved, and on the other hand had shown their disposition to support the ministry, by rejecting the proposition from the peers, relative to the law of elections, by a handsome majority.

In the British house of commons, after a very interesting inquiry, a debate on the petition against the hon. Windham Quin, a member from Limerick, charging him of bribing; a resolution against him was negatived—ayes 73, noes 162.

St. Jean d'Angely, who had obtained permission to return to France, arrived at Paris March 10, and died the day after of the gout in the stomach.

A German paper estimates the fortune of the Prince of Peace, at 100,000,000 Spanish dollars, of which 40,000,000 are said to be deposited in England, and 10,000,000 in France.

The examinations before the secret committee of the house of commons, for inquiry into the state of the bank, has terminated, but the report has not yet been submitted to the house.

His excellency M. Latour Mabourg, is appointed French minister to the court of London.

The celebrated M. de Kotzebue was assassinated by a student at Manheim, on the 23d of March; and the latter immediately committed suicide with the same pogniard which had been the instrument of his crime. Both instantly expired.

In consequence of an agreement between the Spanish and British governments, a Mr. Dick is to proceed from England to Vera Cruz, to receive a quantity of specie collected at that port.

A great number of vessels have been chartered in England, to proceed to the Pacific Ocean with goods, under an idea that the Revolutionists have made a successful attempt on Lima.

A plan for employing the poor in agricultural labours, that they may obtain the whole or a part of their support, is under consideration in England. It is stated, that there are 10,000 acres of waste land near London, which might be made productive by extra labour.

The emperor of Russia has published an ordinance, by which the right of establishing manufactures of every description, is granted to the peasants, it having been before confined to the nobility and merchants.

The mourning for the late king of Sweden, was continued for a whole year, except one month, when it was suspended on account of the coronation; and it was, for that reason, continued a month beyond the year. But the long period of wearing mourning having proved injurious to the trade, the king "having taken into consideration that the loss of a good king, or a member of the royal family, is great enough for a faithful people without increasing it by any observances injurious to the public industry," has ordained, that, for the future, mourning for a king or queen shall last but six months.

The births in Stockholm, during the last year, 1818, were 2344; deaths, 2280; marriages, 505; divorces 26.

The merchants and traders of St. Johns, have agreed to receive and circulate doubloons for sixteen dollars, and the parts of doubloons at the same rate. This increase of their current value is made for the purpose of encouraging the importation of them from the West Indies, and to prevent the exportation to the United States.

It is said, that several British naval officers, have been struck from the rolls, for entering the Revolutionary service.

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